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EXAMINER

LESNIEWSKI, VICTOR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/864,479	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HORSTMANN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Victor Lesniewski	<b>Art Unit</b> 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

*HL*

*PD*

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The amendment filed 3/21/2005 has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 15, 18, and 23 have been amended.
3. Claims 24 and 25 have been added.
4. Claims 1-25 are now pending.
5. The applicant's arguments, see pgs. 12, 13, and 15 of the amendment filed 3/21/2005, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn. Upon further consideration, a new grounds of rejection is made as will be discussed in detail below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,237,026), hereinafter referred to as Prasad, in view of Skarbo et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,317,777), hereinafter referred to as Skarbo.
8. Prasad disclosed a computer conferencing environment where computers can automatically enroll to a conference. In an analogous art, Skarbo disclosed a videoconferencing system that includes a conferencing computer system in operation with a document server that provides a storage space for the various users or presenters of the system.

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9. Concerning claim 1, Prasad did not explicitly state that each attendee has a personal proxy and a real identity as recited in step (c). Concerning the personal proxy, Skarbo states a document server that provides storage space for each attendee of the conference while the conference is in session. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to maintain a personal proxy as provided by Skarbo. Here the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

Concerning the real identity, network users often have multiple email accounts and it would be obvious to maintain an email account separate from a conference server storage space. In addition, Prasad mentions the use of multiple network addresses (or an alternate network address) by one user at column 5, lines 43-46. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to maintain a real identity, separate from a personal proxy.

10. Concerning claim 1, Prasad did not explicitly state moving conference information into the personal proxy as recited in step (d). However, Skarbo states moving conference information into storage space of a document server. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to move conference information into the personal proxy as provided by Skarbo. Again the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

11. Concerning claim 1, Prasad did not explicitly state updating the conference information as recited in step (e). However, Skarbo states updating and uploading conference information

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that is shared with other attendees of the conference. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to update the conference information as recited in step (e) as provided by Skarbo. Again the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

12. Concerning claim 1, Prasad did not explicitly state a second attendee moving information into his own personal proxy as recited in step (f). However, Skarbo states sharing information in such a way that the information can easily be moved, updated, manipulated, etc. by other attendees of the conference. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to move information into the personal proxy of the second attendee as provided by Skarbo. Again the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

13. Concerning claim 1, Prasad did not explicitly state attendees moving information from their personal proxies to their real identities as recited in steps (g) and (h). However, since it is obvious to maintain multiple email accounts, it would also be obvious to move or forward information from one account to another account. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Prasad by adding the ability to maintain a personal proxy as provided by Skarbo and by adding the ability to move information from the personal proxy to the real identity of an attendee.

14. Independent claims 14, 21, and 24 recite limitations similar to claim 1 and thus, the above motivation applies to these claims. This motivation also applies to those dependent claims

utilizing the same combination. For the sake of clarity, additional comments are made with some of the line citations that follow.

15. Thereby, the combination of Prasad and Skarbo discloses:

- <Claim 1>

A method, comprising: (a) using conference software executing on an organizer computer system to define a conference and to store conference information associated with the conference, the conference information including a list of attendees, the conference information being stored on the organizer computer system (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and column 5, lines 26-46); (b) at the conference a wireless device of a first attendee establishes wireless communication with the organizer computer system (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51); (c) if the first attendee is on the list of attendees then the first attendee is registered with the conference software (Prasad, column 6, lines 1-20), each attendee registered has a personal proxy and a real identity (Skarbo, figure 9, item 452 and figure 3; see paragraph 9); (d) upon registration the first attendee receives access to updated conference information via the first attendee's wireless device (Prasad, column 6, lines 28-34), the updated conference information including the list of attendees, at least a part of the updated conference information being moved into the personal proxy of the first attendee (Skarbo, column 11, lines 16-30; see paragraph 10); (e) the first attendee during the conference updates the conference information by modifying first attendee sharing information within the conference information, the first attendee sharing information being information provided by the first attendee that is shared with other attendees, the first attendee sharing information being stored on the organizer computer system (Skarbo,

column 4, lines 28-54; see paragraph 11); (f) a second attendee having a registered wireless device accesses the conference information as updated in (e) and moves at least part of the first attendee sharing information into the personal proxy of the second attendee (Skarbo, column 5, lines 27-39; see paragraph 12); (g) the second attendee looks through conference information stored in the second attendee's personal proxy and moves a selected part of that information to the second attendee's real identity (see paragraph 13; plus Skarbo, column 12, lines 8-23 for related email abilities in Skarbo's system); and (h) the first attendee looks through conference information stored in the first attendee's personal proxy and moves a selected part of that information to the first attendee's real identity (see paragraph 13; plus Skarbo, column 12, lines 8-23 for related email abilities in Skarbo's system).

- <Claim 2>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee uses the first attendee's wireless device to update the conference information in (e) (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51 for wireless and Skarbo, column 4, lines 28-54 for update).

- <Claim 3>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee uses a personal computer to update the conference information in (e), the personal computer being coupled to the organizer computer system via the internet (Prasad, column 1, lines 32-44 for personal computer and Skarbo, column 4, lines 28-54 for update).

- <Claim 4>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the wireless device of the first attendee is taken from the group consisting of a WAP phone or a PDA, and wherein the wireless device of the second attendee is taken from the group consisting of a WAP phone or a PDA (Prasad, column 2, lines 58-60 where a WAP phone or a PDA is an obvious variation from the wireless devices named).

- <Claim 5>

The method of Claim 1, wherein a conference organizer defines the conference in step (a), the conference organizer also being an attendee on the list of attendees, the conference organizer attending the conference and having a registered wireless device (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and column 5, lines 26-46).

- <Claim 6>

The method of Claim 1, wherein a conference organizer defines the conference in step (a) by entering the list of attendees using the conference software and by entering a conference time using the conference software (Prasad, column 5, lines 26-46).

- <Claim 7>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the personal proxy of an attendee includes storage space disposed on the organizer computer system where the attendee can store conference information, and wherein the real identity of an attendee includes a second storage space identified by an email address, the attendee using the second storage space to store more than information associated with the conference (Skarbo, figure 9, item 452 and column 10, lines 16-17; see paragraph 9 for real identity).



- <Claim 8>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the personal proxy of an attendee includes a first mailbox, and wherein the real identity of the attendee is a second mailbox (Skarbo, figure 9, item 464 where Skarbo's system has email capabilities and can use an email server in conjunction with the document server; see paragraph 9 for real identity).

- <Claim 9>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee updates the conference information in (e) by providing links to selected information stored on a computer other than the organizer computer system (Skarbo, column 4, lines 45-54).

- <Claim 10>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the first attendee updates the conference information in (e) by moving the first attendee sharing information from the first attendee's real identity to the organizer computer system, the first attendee using the first attendee's wireless device to initiate the move (Skarbo, column 4, lines 28-54 where it would also be obvious to move information from a real identity or alternate email address, since it is obvious to move information to the real identity).

- <Claim 11>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the part of the updated conference information moved into the personal proxy of the first attendee in (d) is an agenda of the conference (Prasad, column 5, lines 37-39 and Skarbo, column 11, lines 16-30).

- <Claim 13>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the conference information stored on the organizer computer system includes a message board, the message board being accessible by the first attendee using the first attendee's wireless device, the message board being accessible by the second attendee using the second attendee's wireless device, the message board containing messages for multiple attendees (Skarbo, column 5, lines 15-25).

- <Claim 14>

A system comprising: a computer system comprising a wireless communication station, the wireless communication station being disposed at a conference location, the computer system storing a list of conference attendees (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66, column 5, lines 26-46, and column 3, lines 27-51), the computer system maintaining a personal proxy mailbox for an attendee on the list of conference attendees, the attendee having another mailbox that is not maintained by the computer system (Skarbo, figure 9, item 452 and figure 3, where Skarbo's system also maintains email capabilities as in figure 9, item 464; see paragraph 9 for another mailbox); and a wireless device that communicates at the conference location with the wireless communication station, the wireless device being usable: 1) to retrieve an indication of the personal proxy mailbox from the computer system, and 2) to send a message to the personal proxy mailbox of the attendee using the indication of the personal proxy mailbox retrieved from the computer system (Prasad, column 5, lines 40-46 and Skarbo, column 5, lines 27-39).

- <Claim 15>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the indication of the personal proxy mailbox is the name of the personal proxy mailbox maintained on the computer system, the indication of the personal proxy mailbox being retrieved by the wireless device as part of the list of conference attendees, wherein the other mailbox is the primary business email address of the attendee (Prasad, column 5, lines 40-46, also where it would be obvious that the other mailbox is the primary business email since multiple email accounts, including business accounts, are well known in the art).

- <Claim 16>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system stores a conference agenda, the wireless device being usable to retrieve and display the conference agenda (Prasad, column 5, lines 37-39).

- <Claim 17>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system stores information about an exhibit of a first conference exhibitor and stores information about an exhibit of a second conference exhibitor, the computer system having an interface that allows the first conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the first conference exhibitor but does not allow the first conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the second conference exhibitor, and wherein the interface allows the second conference exhibitor to modify the information about the exhibit of the second conference exhibitor but does not allow the second conference exhibitor to modify the

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information about the exhibit of the first conference exhibitor (Skarbo, column 8, line 59 through column 9, line 5).

- <Claim 19>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system maintains a message board, the wireless device being usable to place a message on the message board, the wireless device being usable to read a message from the message board. (Skarbo, column 5, lines 15-25).

- <Claim 21>

A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of: maintaining a list of conference attendees on a conference organizer's computer system (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and column 5, lines 26-46), each of the conference attendees having a corresponding wireless device (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51); maintaining on the conference organizer's computer system a personal proxy mailbox for each the conference attendees on the list of conference attendees (Skarbo, figure 9, item 452 and figure 3, where concerning "mailbox," Skarbo's system also maintains email capabilities as in figure 9, item 464); interfacing the conference organizer's computer system with a wireless communication station such that the conference organizer's computer system can communicate in wireless fashion with the wireless devices of conference attendees when the wireless devices are present at a conference (Prasad, column 3, lines 27-51); registering conference attendees on the list of conference attendees (Prasad, column 6, lines 1-34); and allowing a first wireless device of a first registered conference attendee to select a second registered conference attendee

from the list of conference attendees and to send a message the personal proxy mailbox of second registered conference attendee, wherein the second registered conference attendee has a primary email address other than the personal proxy mailbox of the second registered conference attendee, the primary email address of the second registered conference attendee not being divulged to the first registered conference attendee (Skarbo, column 5, lines 27-39; see paragraph 9 for primary email address).

- <Claim 22>

The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the conference has a duration, and wherein the conference organizer's computer system allows a conference attendee to access his/her personal proxy mailbox only for a period of time that roughly corresponds to the duration of the conference (Prasad, column 5, lines 33-39 and Skarbo, column 5, lines 35-39).

- <Claim 23>

The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the second conference attendee can use his/her wireless device to move selected information from his/her personal proxy mailbox into his/her primary email address (see paragraph 13; plus Skarbo, column 12, lines 8-23 for related email abilities in Skarbo's system).

- <Claim 24>

A method comprising: maintaining a plurality of personal proxies for a conference, each of the personal proxies having a personal proxy name, each of the personal proxies being maintained on a computer system and being associated with a respective one of a plurality of attendees of the conference (Skarbo, figure 9, item 452; figure 3; and column

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10, lines 16-17), each of the attendees also having an email mailbox that is different than the personal proxy of the attendee and that is not maintained on or by the computer system (see paragraph 9), each of the attendees having a wireless communication device (column 3, lines 27-51); providing a wireless communication link between the wireless communication devices of the attendees and the computer system, each attendee being able to access his/her personal proxy on the computer system using his/her wireless communication device, wherein the conference has a duration, wherein each attendee is allowed to access his/her personal proxy only for a period of time that roughly corresponds to the duration of the conference (Prasad, column 2, lines 54-66 and column 5, lines 26-46, and Skarbo, column 5, lines 35-39); and providing the personal proxy names to the attendees of the conference, each attendee being able to view the personal proxy names using his/her wireless communication device (Prasad, column 5, lines 40-46 and Skarbo, column 5, lines 27-39).

Since the combination of Prasad and Skarbo discloses all of the above limitations, claims 1-11, 13-17, 19, and 21-24 are rejected.

16. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Skarbo, as applied above, in view of Adamson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,717,863), hereinafter referred to as Adamson.

17. The combination of Prasad and Skarbo disclosed a computer conferencing system including a document server that provides a storage space for attendees. In an analogous art,

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Adamson disclosed methods for managing connection addresses in a personal computer conference.

18. Although the combination of Prasad and Skarbo did not disclose the use of an electronic business card by an attendee, Adamson's system includes functionality allowing attendees to create, edit, send, receive, save, and browse electronic business cards. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad and Skarbo by adding the ability for attendees to use electronic business cards as provided by Adamson. Here the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

19. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Skarbo, and Adamson discloses:

- <Claim 12>

The method of Claim 1, wherein the part of the updated conference information moved into the personal proxy of the first attendee in (d) is an electronic business card of an attendee (Adamson, column 2, lines 26-40).

Since the combination of Prasad, Skarbo, and Adamson discloses all of the above limitations, claim 12 is rejected.

20. Claims 18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Skarbo, as applied above, in view of Zoken (U.S. Patent Number 5,944,787).

21. The combination of Prasad and Skarbo disclosed a computer conferencing system including a document server that provides a storage space for attendees. In an analogous art, Zoken disclosed a system for identifying email addresses with specific host or domain names.

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22. Although the combination of Prasad and Skarbo did not disclose an address with the first part being indicative of the name of an attendee and the second part being indicative of a conference name, such a naming scheme is well known in the art as evidenced by Zoken. Zoken states multiple examples of email addresses with a person's name as the first part and a company or group name (akin to a conference name) as the second part. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad and Skarbo by adding the ability for attendees to use an address with the first part being indicative of the name of an attendee and the second part being indicative of a conference name as provided by Zoken. Here the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

23. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Skarbo, and Zoken discloses:

- <Claim 18>

The system of Claim 15, wherein the attendee has a name, and wherein the indication of the personal proxy mailbox has a first part and a second part, the first part being indicative of the name of the attendee, the second part being indicative of a conference name (Zoken, column 5, lines 46-49).

- <Claim 25>

The method of Claim 24, wherein the conference has a name, each personal proxy name having a first part and a second part, the first part being indicative of a name of the conference attendee, the second part being indicative of the name of the conference, and wherein the email mailbox of an attendee is the primary business address of the attendee (Zoken, column 5, lines 46-49; see discussion of claim 15 for primary business address).



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Since the combination of Prasad, Skarbo, and Zoken discloses all of the above limitations, claims 18 and 25 are rejected.

24. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Skarbo, as applied above, in view of Bouve et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,682,525), hereinafter referred to as Bouve.

25. The combination of Prasad and Skarbo disclosed a computer conferencing system including a document server that provides a storage space for attendees. In an analogous art, Bouve disclosed a system for remotely accessing a group of items from a database.

26. Although the combination of Prasad and Skarbo did not disclose the use of a map of the conference location, Bouve's system is focused on providing the user with a map of a specific location of interest. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Prasad and Skarbo by adding the ability for attendees to access a map of a specific location as provided by Bouve. Here the combination satisfies the need for a reliable way to get conferencing data to conference participants. See Skarbo, column 1, lines 46-48.

27. Thereby, the combination of Prasad, Skarbo, and Bouve discloses:

- <Claim 20>

The system of Claim 14, wherein the computer system stores a map of the conference location, the wireless device being usable to retrieve from the computer system and to display the map on the wireless device (Bouve, column 2, lines 45-52).

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Since the combination of Prasad, Skarbo, and Bouve discloses all of the above limitations, claim 20 is rejected.

***Conclusion***

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Lesniewski whose telephone number is 571-272-3987.

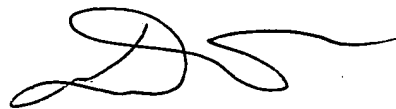
The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Victor Lesniewski  
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